

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/044,426

Examiner

Thomas A. Dixon

Applicant(s)

CURETON ET AL.

Art Unit

3629

[Signature]

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/24/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 March 1998 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed 5/24/04 is acceptable.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-13 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per claim 1.

The prior art of record, specifically Pratt et al (5,008,821) in view of Barnard (5,119,102) do not disclose or fairly teach:

a database for maintaining information representative of a model of said feedlot and objects contained therein, each said feed delivery computer including a mechanism for viewing at least a portion of said model maintained in said database, each feed delivery computer system also including a vehicle information acquisition mechanism for acquiring vehicle information regarding (i) the position of said feed delivery vehicle relative to a first prespecified coordinate referenced frame, and (ii) the state of operation of said feed delivery vehicle, and (iii) at least one of the position and the state of operation of said feed delivery vehicle represented with said model of said feedlot.

As per claim 12.

The prior art of record, specifically Pratt et al (5,008,821) in view of Barnard (5,119,102) do not disclose or fairly teach:

a feedlot modeling mechanism for maintaining a geometrical database containing a geometrical model of the feedlot and objects contained therein a coordinate acquisition mechanism for acquiring coordinate information specifying the position of the feedlot vehicle relative to a reference coordinate system defined within the feedlot, and a geometrical database processor for processing information in said geometrical database using said coordinate information in order to update said geometrical model.

As per claim 13.

The prior art of record, specifically Pratt et al (5,008,821) in view of Barnard (5,119,102) do not disclose or fairly teach:

.providing a feedlot vehicle associated with a portable computer system in communication with said feedlot computer network, said portable computer system using real-time virtual reality modeling and coordinate acquisition techniques in order to maintain a 3-D geometrical model of said feedlot and objects therein including said feedlot vehicle, and

navigating said feedlot vehicle while viewing at least a portion of said feedlot model from within said feedlot vehicle.

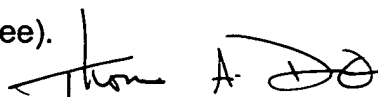
The claims that depend from the above allowed claims are allowable for the same reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Dixon whose telephone number is (703) 305-4645. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas A. Dixon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas A. Dixon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3629

September 04